carry inflammable materials with them alongwith or concealed in their baggage.

(b) to (d) "Policing" being a subject-matter of the State Government, security of passengers in the running trains and Railway premises is the constitutional responsibility of the State Government concerned. The cases of crime on Railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the Government Railway Police (GRP). The Railway administration and RPF assist the Government Railway Police for better security of passengers. Where offences under section 164 of the Railway Act (unlawfully bring dangerous goods on a Railway) are noticed, the offenders are apprehended and produced before the Magistrates or handed over to the GRP for necessary action. RPF independently does not conduct luggage checks at Railway Stations.

Development of coaches by RITES

2191. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited has been given permission to carry out study and develop crash worthy coaches for the Indian Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time-frame has been given within which it should complete its study and submit its report for construction of coaches; and

(d) by when, the Indian Railways would introduce air brake system in all coaches, wagons and locomotives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The contract is to analyse the present design of coaches by Finite Element method and then to develop a crashworthy design for General Second Class and the Second-cum Luggage & Guard coaches. These designs will be tested through crash simulation on computers.

The crashworthy design of the General Second Class coach will then by validated through an actual crash test. Crash test results will be compared with those obtained through simulation on computers.

M/s Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited (RITES) will also assist in development of a Crashworthy Design Centre at Research Design and Standards Organization (RDSO), Lucknow which will enable Indian Railways to attain capability of developing crashworthy designs for other types of coaches. M/s RITES will take the assistance of M/s Transportation Technology Centre Incorporated (TTCI) & M/s Applied Research Associates (ARA) of USA who are experts in this area.

(c) RITES is to complete the project in 18 months from June' 03, *i.e.* the date of signing the contract.

(d) All diesel locomotives are already provided with air brake system. All new electric locomotives that are being put into service are with air brake system and Indian Railways have adequate number of air brake diesel and electric locomotives to meet requirement of hauling air braked trains. New coaches and wagons are all being provided with air brake system. Conversion of the existing fleet of coaches to air brake system is expected to be completed by March' 05, subject to availability of funds. All new freight stock being procured is provided with air brake. Existing vacuum brake stock is gradually being phased out and it is proposed to completely phase out vacuum brake freight stock during the next 10 years subejct to availability of funds.

Price Variation Clause in Railways

2192. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that orders placed by Railway for procurement of material and equipments contain a clause which is known as "Price Variation Clause";

(b) if so, the Railways suffer heavily as the suppliers manoeuvre to charge a higher price, particularly in case of long term contracts; and

(c) measures to be taken by Government to overcome this menace?